United Nations A/55/486–S/2000/991

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
13 October 2000
English
Original: French

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 39
Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 13 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union issued on 11 October 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Levitte**
Permanent Representative

00-69138 (E) 161000 161000

Annex to the letter dated 13 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the election of Mr. Kostunica as President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In voting for him, the people have chosen democracy and Europe. As a result, in accordance with its message to them on the eve of the elections, the Council has radically reviewed the European Union's policy towards the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. It has taken the following decisions.

1. Sanctions

The Union has decided to lift all sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia since 1998, with the exception of the provisions affecting Milosevic and those associated with him.

The Union decided to lift the oil embargo and the air embargo immediately.

2. Economic and financial cooperation

The Council has decided to allow the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to benefit from the Community Assistance to Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization (CARDS) programme. The activities of the European Agency for Reconstruction will be extended to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Union will maintain and extend its humanitarian aid programmes to vulnerable persons resident in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, particularly to displaced persons and to refugees from the former Yugoslavia.

The European Union confirms its resolve to make an active contribution to the re-establishment of navigation on the Danube and to participate in feasibility studies for the reconstruction and modernization of the infrastructure of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on a regional basis.

The Finance Ministers of the Union will examine, in consultation with the international financial institutions, the conditions for integrating the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into the international financial community as rapidly as possible.

The Council has asked for the European Commission and the World Bank, under the aegis of the Steering Committee for the Balkans, to be jointly responsible for evaluating the needs and for coordinating economic and financial assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

3. Closer relationship with the European Union

The Council has also decided to propose to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that it participate in the stabilization and association process launched at the Cologne European Council. Accordingly, the Council invites the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to rapidly set up a joint European Union/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia task force to examine ways of progressing towards a stabilization and association agreement.

The Council has asked the Commission to submit to it proposals on extending to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia the benefit of the asymmetrical Community preferences adopted at the General Affairs Council on 18 September.

By implementing all of these measures without delay, the European Union intends to contribute to the establishment of democracy and the rule of law in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to the success of the major political, economic and social reforms it will introduce and to its opening up to Europe. The full participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Stability Pact for South-East Europe will help in this matter. The Council has asked the Coordinator of the Stability Pact, in his capacity as special envoy of the European Union, to submit to it proposals to that effect as soon as possible.

The 15 European Union Member States each express their desire to re-establish or to normalize their diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as soon as possible.

The European Union also hopes that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will start a reconciliation process with its neighbours and will re-establish relationships of trust and cooperation.

The European Union will help meet those objectives as far as it is able.

Accordingly, the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will be invited to the Zagreb Summit (24 November 2000).

In the context of the mandate on the Balkans defined at the Lisbon European Council, the Council has asked Mr. Solana, Secretary-General, High Representative for the common foreign and security policy, to attach particular importance to relations between the European Union and the new Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to submit a report to that effect to the forthcoming General Affairs Council.

The French Foreign Affairs Minister, President of the Council of the Union, will travel to Belgrade on Tuesday, 10 October, to inform President Kostunica of these decisions and to invite him to meet the Heads of State or of Government of the Union at the forthcoming Biarritz European Council.